

I want the FCC to deny Bell South's request for deregulation of internet connectivity. To ensure a free and open marketplace, the carriers must be regulated.

Small internet providers are not facilities-based carriers; they have no way of competing with the companies who own the wires -- without regulation, the small providers will be at the mercy of the large carriers, who will have a stranglehold on the market. Even more important, end customers like myself will be pushed from the small provider, with whom I'm very satisfied, and forced to buy my internet service from a telephone company which I once used for my internet service and left because of the terrible quality of their service and support. Please don't force me to go back by deregulating the carriers.

Regulation gives me a true choice. I want the FCC to return to your former role of tighter, fair regulation. When only one or two companies own the wires to our homes, they must be treated as the public utility companies that they are: the wired telephone arena is not one in which I have a choice of providers, so traditional regulation is essential.

FCC deregulation has been a terrible failure in the broadcast industry, resulting in an alarming concentration of ownership that has damaged the American spirit of fair and open expression of ideas. Don't make the same mistake again with the Internet. Rule against BellSouth's petition.